LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A positioning apparatus, comprising

a plug member projecting from a first block and adapted for insertion into a positioning hole formed in a second block,

a plurality of slide portions opposed to each other across the plug member in an opposed direction and arranged around the plug member for movement in a first radial direction substantially orthogonal to the opposed direction thereof,

a first pressing member diametrically expandably and diametrically contractibly and axially movably within a predetermined range arranged outside the slide portions,

a second pressing member diametrically expandably and diametrically contractibly and axially movably within a predetermined range arranged outside the slide portions and inside the first pressing member,

wherein the first pressing member ~~or the second pressing member~~ is arranged to be driven toward ~~a base end~~ the first block by a drive arrangement, such that the slide portions expand the first pressing member in a second radial direction different from the first radial direction, and such that the slide portions are moved in the first radial direction with respect to the plug member.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, including

an inclined outer surface formed on the second pressing member,

an inclined inner surface enabling a tapering engagement with the inclined outer surface formed on the first pressing member,

an axially movable drive member arranged to be inserted into the plug member, said drive member connected to the first pressing member ~~or the second pressing member~~,

said drive member being arranged to move the first pressing member ~~or the second pressing member~~ toward the ~~base end~~ first block for locking to expand the first

pressing member in the second radial direction by the tapering engagement and to bring the first pressing member into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole, and

said drive member being also arranged to move the first pressing member ~~or the second pressing member~~ toward a leading end for releasing ~~by canceling~~ the diametrically expanded condition of the first pressing member and ~~canceling~~ thus releasing the closely contacted condition.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, including

an advancing arrangement configured to advance ~~the first pressing member or~~ the second pressing member toward a leading end.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the first pressing member is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 7, wherein

a slit is formed in the first pressing member,

said slit enabling the first pressing member to deform in a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the second pressing member is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented). The positioning apparatus as set forth in

claim 9, including

a slit formed in the second pressing member, said slit enabling the second pressing member to deform in a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 9, including

gaps disposed between the second pressing member and the plug member in the first radial direction.

Claims 12-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the drive arrangement is configured to move the second block toward a base end via the first pressing member such that the first pressing member comes into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole, and presses a supported surface of the second block against a support surface of the first block.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). A clamping system, comprising

the positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). A clamping system, comprising

a plurality of positioning apparatuses, wherein at least one of which is a positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1.